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CLAIMS

1.   An information interface system, comprising:

speech recognition means arranged to listen to voice signals carried on a

5   communications channel between a user and another person, and to recognise at least
one or more predefined keywords or phrases contained within the voice signals;

keyword processing means arranged to relate any recognised keywords or
phrases to items of information stored in an information database so as to identify relevant
items of information thereto;

10   information display means arranged to display any items of information
and/or links thereto identified by the keyword processing means to the user; and

speech recognition control means arranged to activate or deactivate the
speech recognition means in response to one or more predetermined criteria.

15   2.   A system according to claim 1, wherein the keyword processing means further
comprises:

storage means for storing item definition data defining the items of information in
the information database;

item matching means for matching recognised keywords or phrases to the item

20   definition data; and

item scoring means for keeping an item score for each item of information in
dependence upon the number of keywords or phrases matched to each item.

3.   A system according to claim 2, wherein the keyword processing means further

25   comprises item sorting means arranged to sort the items of information in dependence on
the respective item scores.

4.   A system according to claims 2 or 3, wherein the keyword processing means
further comprises item score thresholding means arranged to apply at least one threshold

30   to the item scores, wherein those items whose item scores do not meet the threshold are
not made available to the user.

5.   A system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the information
display means is arranged to display the items of information and/or links thereto as a

35   hierarchical structure, which preferably matches the hierarchy of the information database.

6.   A system according to any of the preceding claims wherein the speech recognition means, the keyword processing means and the information display means are substantially continuously or periodically operable so as to continually or periodically
5   update the items of information and/or links thereto displayed to the user.

7.   A system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the predetermined criteria are selected such that the speech recognition means is deactivated on that portion or portions of the voice signals which are not expected to contain keywords or phrases.
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8.   A method of interfacing information to a user, comprising the steps of:
        listening to voice signals carried on a communications channel between the user and another person;
        recognising, in response to one or more predetermined criteria, at least one or
15   more predefined keywords or phrases contained within the voice signals;
        relating any recognised keywords or phrases to items of information stored in an information database so as to identify relevant items of information thereto; and
        displaying any items of information and/or links thereto so identified to the user.

20   9.   A method according to claim 8, wherein the relating step further comprises:
        storing item definition data defining the items of information in the information database;
        matching recognised keywords or phrases to the item definition data; and
        keeping an item score for each item of information in dependence upon the
25   number of keywords or phrases matched to each item.

10.   A method according to claim 9, wherein the relating step further comprises sorting the items of information in dependence on the respective item scores.

30   11.   A method according to claims 8 or 9, wherein the relating step further comprises applying at least one threshold to the item scores, wherein those items whose item scores do not meet the threshold are not made available to the user.

12.   A method according to any of claims 8 to 11, wherein the displaying step is arranged to display the items of information and/or links thereto as a hierarchical structure, which preferably matches the hierarchy of the information database.

5   13.   A method according to any of claims 8 to 12, wherein the steps are substantially continuously or periodically repeated so as to continually or periodically update the items of information and/or links thereto displayed to the user.

14.   A method according to any of claims 8 to 14, wherein the predetermined criteria
10   are selected such that the recognising step is not performed on that portion or portions of the voice signals which are not expected to contain keywords or phrases.